

# The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

## Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

### The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

**Self-Awareness** (understanding personal strengths, emotions, and the power of noticing)

**Self-Management** (finding courage to speak up, managing emotions)

**Social Awareness** (empathy, recognizing fairness and kindness)

**Relationship Skills** (standing up for others, building positive connections)

**Responsible Decision-Making** (choosing to take action when witnessing unkind behavior)

#### Background

*The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade* tells the story of Sally McCabe, a quiet girl who notices everything around her—especially the small injustices and unkindness that others overlook. One day, she decides to take a stand, proving that even the smallest voices can make a big difference. This book encourages students to recognize their own power to speak up against unfairness and promote kindness in their communities.

#### Before You Read

**Look at the cover—what do you notice about Sally? How do you think she feels?**

**What does it mean to notice things around you? Why is that important?**

**Have you ever seen someone being treated unfairly? What did you do?**

**Do you think one person can make a big difference? Why or why not?**

**What are some ways we can stand up for others?**

#### While You Read

##### Guiding Questions

**(Self-Awareness)** What kind of things does Sally notice that other kids don't? Why is she paying attention?

**(Social Awareness)** What kinds of unfair things does Sally see happening at her school? How do they make her feel?

**(Self-Management)** How do you think Sally feels when she sees others being treated unfairly? Have you ever felt that way?

**(Relationship Skills)** Why do you think the other kids don't speak up? What might be stopping them?

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	<p><b>(Responsible Decision-Making)</b> What do you think will happen when Sally decides to raise her voice?</p> <p><b>(Self-Awareness)</b> How does Sally feel when she finally speaks up? How does her body language show it?</p> <p><b>(Social Awareness)</b> How do the other kids react when Sally speaks up? Why does this matter?</p> <p><b>(Relationship Skills)</b> What happens when more students start noticing and helping others? How does the school begin to change?</p> <p><b>(Self-Management)</b> How does Sally's confidence grow by the end of the book? How does that relate to standing up for others?</p> <p><b>(Responsible Decision-Making)</b> What lesson does this story teach us about using our voices? How can we apply it to our own lives?</p>
After Reading	<p><b>K-2 Activity: "Noticing Kindness" Chart</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Students will practice noticing and recognizing acts of kindness in their community.</p> <p><b>Activity Steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Discussion:</b> Ask students, "What are some small ways people show kindness every day?"</li> <li>2. <b>Chart Creation:</b> Create a "<b>Kindness Noticing</b>" Chart in the classroom. Each time a student notices someone being kind or standing up for another, they add a drawing or short sentence to the chart.</li> <li>3. <b>Reflection:</b> At the end of the week, discuss how noticing kindness makes our community stronger.</li> </ol> <p><b>3-5 Activity: "Stand Up &amp; Speak Out" Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Students will reflect on how they can take action when they see unfairness or unkindness.</p> <p><b>Activity Steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Discussion:</b> Ask, "What are some situations where people might feel left out or treated unfairly at school?"</li> <li>2. <b>Brainstorming Solutions:</b> In small groups, students brainstorm <b>three ways to stand up</b> when they see unkindness.</li> <li>3. <b>Writing Prompt:</b> "Write about a time when you saw someone being left</li> </ol>

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	<p>out or treated unfairly. What did you do? What would you do differently now?”</p> <p>4. <b>Commitment Pledge:</b> Each student writes one way they will <b>take action</b> if they see unkindness. These pledges can be displayed on a classroom bulletin board.</p>
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